R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE SPECIFICATION

The specification has been amended to some correct minor informalities of which the undersigned has become aware. No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the specification be approved and entered.

THE DRAWINGS

Figs. 4 and 7 have been amended to correct a minor typographical error at step S11. In addition, Fig. 7 has also been amended at steps S14 and S15 to correspond to steps S14 and S15 of Fig. 4 (see the disclosure in the specification at, for example, page 20, lines 22-24). No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the drawings be approved and entered.

THE CLAIMS

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite subject matter along the lines of (now canceled) claims 2 and 3. Independent claim 9 has been amended to recite subject matter along the lines of (now canceled) claim 10. And independent

claim 16 has been amended to recite subject matter along the lines of (now canceled) claims 17 and 18.

In addition, the claims have also been amended to make minor grammatical improvements and to correct minor antecedent basis problems so as to put them in better form for issuance in a U.S. patent.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-3, 5-8, and 16-19 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 6,219,302 (“Tanoguchi et al”); claims 4 and 20 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Tanoguchi et al; and claims 9-15 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Tanoguchi et al and USP 6,288,977 (“Yoshida et al”). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

The present invention is directed towards a time-data transmitting apparatus with which a wristwatch or clock can, irrespective of whether it is located far from or near to the time-data transmitting apparatus, normally receive a radio wave

transmitted therefrom and perform accurate time correction based on a received time code.

Re: claims 1 and 16

According to the present invention as recited in each of amended independent claims 1 and 16, a time-data transmitting apparatus is provided which comprises a time-measuring portion which measures current time data, a radio-wave reception control portion which receives a standard-time radio wave signal containing time data, and a time-correcting portion which corrects the current time data measured by the time-measuring portion based on the time data contained in the standard-time radio wave signal received by the radio-wave reception control portion.

Further, as recited in each of amended independent claims 1 and 16, a transmission-demand signal reception control portion receives a weak-wave transmission-demand signal, and a transmission control portion transmits a radio wave containing time data based on the current time data measured by the time-measuring portion, at a predetermined time and at a first intensity, and which, for a predetermined time period, halts transmission of the radio wave containing the time data at the first intensity and performs transmission thereof at a second

intensity that is lower than the first intensity, when the transmission-demand signal reception control portion receives the weak-wave transmission-demand signal.

With the structure of the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 16, a radio wave containing time data is transmitted at a second (weaker) intensity upon receipt of a weak-wave transmission-demand signal that is transmitted from a wristwatch or clock).

It is respectfully submitted that Tanoguchi et al does not at all disclose, teach or suggest the above described features of the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 16.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Tanoguchi et al discloses a time-data transmitting apparatus comprising a transmission-demand signal receiving portion (24) which receives a weak-wave transmission-demand signal (S1) as according to the claimed present invention. However, the received signal S1 in Tanoguchi et al is merely a standard time radio signal S1 including a time code and is not a signal that is transmitted from a wristwatch or clock and that is demanding weak-wave transmission as according to the claimed present invention.

As recognized by the Examiner, the time-data transmitting apparatus of the claimed present invention receives a standard

time radio signal for time correction in a similar manner to Tanoguchi et al. However, contrary to Tanoguchi et al, in the claimed present invention a radio wave at a low intensity is not transmitted in response to a standard time radio signal.

According to the claimed present invention, a transmission-demand signal is received (from a wristwatch or clock) for starting transmission of a low-intensity radio wave and, in response to the transmission-demand signal, transmission of the low-intensity radio wave is performed.

It is respectfully submitted that Tanoguchi et al does not at all disclose, teach or suggest reception of the transmission-demand signal to effect transmission of the low-intensity radio wave as according to the claimed present invention.

Re: claim 9

According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 9, a time-data transmitting apparatus is provided which comprises an external operation switch and a transmission control portion which transmits a radio wave containing time data at a predetermined time and at a first intensity. As recited in amended independent claim 9, when the external operation switch is operated, the transmission control portion, for a predetermined time period, halts transmission of

the radio wave containing the time data at the first intensity and performs transmission thereof at a second intensity that is lower than the first intensity.

With the structure of the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 9, transmission of the radio wave containing the time data is normally performed at the first intensity and when the external operation switch is operated, the transmission is, for a predetermined time period, halted so that transmission can be performed at the second intensity that is lower than the first intensity.

It is respectfully submitted that Yoshida et al and Tanoguchi et al, even when considered in combination, do not disclose, teach or suggest the above described features of the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 9.

On page 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges that Tanoguchi et al does not disclose the external switch of claim 9. For this reason, the Examiner has cited Yoshida et al.

It is respectfully submitted, however, that Yoshida et al merely discloses a reset switch for starting time correction. In addition, it is respectfully pointed out that the reset switch (32) of Yoshida et al is merely provided in the radio correction clock (3) thereof and not in the time signal repeater (2) thereof.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the reset switch of Yoshida et al clearly does not at all correspond to the external operation switch of the claimed present invention.

And it is respectfully submitted that even if Yoshida et al and Tanoguchi et al were combinable in the manner suggested by the Examiner, such combination would still not achieve or render obvious the feature of the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 9 whereby an external operation switch and a transmission control portion are provided whereby when the external operation switch is operated, the transmission of the radio wave containing the time data at a first intensity is halted so as to perform transmission thereof at a second intensity that is lower than the first intensity.

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In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1, 9 and 16, and claims 4-8, 11-15 and 19-20 respectively depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguishes over Tanoguchi et al and Yoshida et al, taken singly or in combination, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

/Douglas Holtz/

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